

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A wrap-around carrier for containing and carrying a plurality of bottles in two (2) rows comprising:

- A1
- a) A bottom with sides, with a lower side panel attached to each side of the bottom, each lower side panel having an upper side which is attached to an upper side panel, each of which has an upper side which is attached to a carrying handle located between the upper side panels, said handle being designed to extend above the tops of the bottles being carried; and
 - b) Each upper side panel having a row of apertures through which the necks of the bottles are designed to extend, each aperture in each row having a edge in the upper side panel to which a bridge is attached to an aperture edge in the row in the other upper side panel to assist in holding the upper side panels of the carrier together, each bridge having a locking head which locks with an aperture edge in the other row of apertures.

2. (cancelled) The carrier of claim 1 in which a bridge is foldably attached to an aperture edge in one row of apertures with each bridge having a locking head which locks with an aperture edge in the other row of apertures.

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~~2.~~ (currently amended) The carrier of claim [2] ¹ in which the locking head of each bridge is folded upwardly so it is lodged between the handle and the neck of the bottle when loaded.

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~~4.~~ (original) The carrier in claim ²~~3~~ in which the locking head has an end, which can be lodged against the bottom of the bottle cap to aid in supporting the carrier when carried.

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~~5.~~ (original) The carrier of claim 1 in which the carrier handle has two (2) ends to which is foldably attached a web, which is folded inwardly during the erection of the carrier to assist in strengthening the handle.

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~~6.~~ (original) The carrier of claim ⁴~~5~~ which has an aperture in the handle for inserting the hand to carry the carrier with the flap for forming the aperture being only partially severed so that the flap can be folded against the handle to strengthen the handle.

7. (cancelled) The carrier of claim 2 in which the carrier handle has two (2) ends to which is foldably attached a web, which is folded inwardly during the erection of the carrier to assist in the strengthening the handle.

8. (cancelled) The carrier of claim 7 which has an aperture in the handle for inserting the hand to carry the carrier, with the flap for forming being only partially severed so that the flap can be folded against the handle to strength the handle.

9. (cancelled) The carrier of claim 3 in which the carrier handle has

two (2) ends to which is foldably attached a web, which in folded inwardly during erection of the carrier to assist in the strengthening the handle.

10. (cancelled) The carrier of claim 9 which has an aperture in the handle for inserting the hand to carry the carrier, with the flap for forming the aperture being only partially severed so that the flap can be folded against the handle to strengthen the handle.

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~~11~~. (original) The carrier of claim 1 in which each bridge is foldably attached to an aperture edge and glued to a bridge attached to the edge of the aperture in the other row.

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12. (original) The carrier of claim ⁶~~11~~ in which the carrier handle has two (2) ends to which is foldably attached to a web, which is folded inwardly during the erection of the carrier to assist in strengthening the handle.

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~~13~~. (original) The carrier of claim ⁷~~12~~ which has an aperture in the handle for inserting the hand to carry the carrier, with a flap for forming the aperture being only partially severed so that the flap can be folded against the handle to strengthen the handle.

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~~14~~. (original) The carrier in claim 1 in which the bottom comprises two (2) panels which are held together by locks.

15. (cancelled) In a wrap-around carrier for containing and carrying a plurality of bottles in two (2) rows in which the carrier has two (2) upper side panels, each with a row of apertures with each aperture

having an edge to which a bridge is attached to an aperture edge in the other upper side panel to assist in holding the upper side panel of the carrier together.

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16. (original) The wrap-around carrier of claim 1 in which the carrying handle is foldable downwardly between the two (2) rows of bottles so one (1) carrier with bottles can be stacked on top of another carrier with bottles.

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17. (cancelled) The wrap-around carrier of claim 2 in which the carrying handle is foldable downwardly between the two (2) rows of bottles so one (1) carrier with bottles can be stacked on top of another carrier with bottles.

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18. (currently amended) The carrier of claim ~~11~~ [in which the wrap-around carrier of claim 1] in which the carrying handle is foldable downwardly between the two (2) rows of bottles so one (1) carrier with bottles can be stacked on top of another carrier with bottles.

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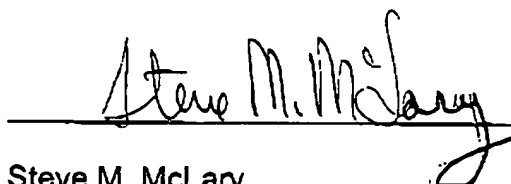
The Examiner did originally reject claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Miess. Since claim 11 is now dependent upon allowable claim 1, it is believed that claim 11 is now likewise an allowable claim. Claims 16 and 18 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by both Miess and Detzel. As was the case with claim 11, claims 16 and 18 are now dependent from claim 1, which has been amended to be allowable. It is believed that this likewise makes these claims allowable as claims which are dependent from an allowable claim.

Applicant has obtained copies of U.S. Patent 3,684,153 to Detzel, used as a primary reference by the Examiner and U.S. Patent 5,624,024 to Miess also used by the Examiner as a primary reference. Applicant has likewise obtained and reviewed copies of U.S. Patents 5,400,901 to Harrelson, 4,470,503 to Stone and 2,563,065 to Price. The last three references were cited by the Examiner as being of interest but were not applied.

For the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the claims as now amended and presented particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. The claims as now amended are patentably distinct from the cited and applied references of record, taken either singly or in any combination. Applicant has further review the references cited and not applied and submits that the claims as now amended are likewise patentably

distinct from these references. Favorable consideration and a prompt notice of allowance are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Steve M. McLary", is written over a horizontal line.

Steve M. McLary
Reg. No. 26,203

RIVERWOOD INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION
814 Livingston Court
Marietta, Georgia 30067
(770) 644-3228